CLAIMS

- A method of diagnosis of stroke or the possibility thereof in a subject suspected of suffering from stroke, which comprises determining the concentration of at least one polypeptide selected from Apo C-III, Serum Amyloid A, Apo C-I, Antithrombin III fragment and Apo A-I in a sample of body fluid taken from the subject.
- A method according to claim 1, in which the polypeptide is differentially contained in the body fluid of stroke-affected subjects and non-stroke-affected subjects, and the method includes determining whether the concentration of polypeptide in the sample is consistent with a diagnosis of stroke.
- A method according to claim 1 or 2, in which an antibody to the polypeptide is used in the determination of the concentration.
 - 4 A method according to any of Claims 1 to 3, in which the body fluid is cerebrospinal fluid, plasma, serum, blood, tears or urine.
- 20 5 A method according to any of Claims 1 to 4, in which the determination of the concentration of the polypeptide is used to determine whether a diagnosed stroke is of the ischaemic or haemorrhagic type.
- A method according to any of Claims 1 to 5, which comprises subjecting a sample of body fluid taken from the subject to mass spectrometry, thereby to determine a test amount of the polypeptide in the sample, wherein the polypeptide is differentially contained in the body fluid of stroke-affected subjects and non-stroke-affected subjects; and determining whether the test amount is consistent with a diagnosis of stroke.

A method according to any of Claims 1 to 6, in which the polypeptide is present in the body fluid of stroke-affected subjects and not present in the body fluid of non-stroke-affected subjects, whereby the presence of the polypeptide in a body fluid sample is indicative of stroke.

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A method according to any of Claims 1 to 6, in which the polypeptide is not present in the body fluid of stroke-affected subjects and present in the body fluid of non-stroke-affected subjects, whereby the non-presence of the polypeptide in a body fluid sample is indicative of stroke.

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- 9 A method according to any of Claims 6 to 8, in which the mass spectrometry is laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry.
- 10 A method according to any of Claims 6 to 9, in which the sample is adsorbed 15 on a probe having an immobilised metal affinity capture (IMAC), hydrophobic, strong anionic or weak cationic exchange surface capable of binding the polypeptide.
 - A method according to any of Claims 6 to 10, in which the polypeptide is determined by surface-enhanced laser desorption/ionisation (SELDI) and time of flight mass spectrometry (TOF-MS).
 - 12 A method according to any of Claims 1 to 11, in which a plurality of peptides is determined in the sample.
- 25 13 Use of a polypeptide selected from Apo C-III, Serum Amyloid A, Apo C-I, Antithrombin III fragment and Apo A-I, or a combination of such polypeptides, for diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic applications relating to stroke.
- Use according to Claim 13, in which the polypeptide is differentially contained in a body fluid of stroke-affected subjects and non-stroke-affected subjects.

Use for diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic applications, relating to stroke, of a material which recognizes, binds to or has affinity for a polypeptide selected from Apo C-III, Serum Amyloid A, Apo C-I, Antithrombin III fragment and Apo A-I.

- 16 Use according to Claim 15 of a combination of materials, each of which recognizes, binds to or has affinity for a polypeptide selected from Apo C-III, Serum Amyloid A, Apo C-I, Antithrombin III fragment and Apo A-I.
- 10 Use according to Claim 15 or 16, in which the or each material is an antibody or antibody chip.
 - 18 Use according to Claim 17, in which the material is an antibody to Apo C-III.
- 15 19 Use according to Claim 17, in which the material is an antibody to Serum Amyloid A.
 - Use according to Claim 17, in which the material is an antibody to Apo C-I.
- 20 21 Use according to Claim 17, in which the material is an antibody to Antithrombin III fragment.
 - 22 Use according to Claim 17, in which the material is an antibody to Apo A-I.
- 25 An assay device for use in the diagnosis of stroke, which comprises a solid substrate having a location containing a material which recognizes, binds to or has affinity for a polypeptide selected from Apo C-III, Serum Amyloid A, Apo C-I, Antithrombin III fragment and Apo A-I.

An assay device according to Claim 23, in which the solid substrate has a plurality of locations each respectively containing a material which recognizes, binds to or has affinity for a polypeptide selected from Apo C-III, Serum Amyloid A, Apo C-I, Antithrombin III fragment and Apo A-I.

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- 25 An assay device according to Claim 23 or 24, in which the material is an antibody or antibody chip.
- An assay device according to Claim 25, which has a unique addressable location for each antibody, thereby to permit an assay readout for each individual polypeptide or for any combination of polypeptides.
 - 27 An assay device according to any of Claims 23 to 26, including an antibody to Apo C-III.

- An assay device according to any of Claims 23 to 26, including an antibody to Serum Amyloid A.
- An assay device according to any of Claims 23 to 26, including an antibody to 20 Apo C-I.
 - An assay device according to any of Claims 23 to 26, including an antibody to Antithrombin III.
- 25 31 An assay device according to any of Claims 23 to 26, including an antibody to Apo A-I.
- 32 A kit for use in diagnosis of stroke, comprising a probe for receiving a sample of body fluid, and for placement in a mass spectrometer, thereby to determine a test amount of a polypeptide in the sample, wherein the polypeptide is selected from Apo

C-III, Serum Amyloid A, Apo C-I, Antithrombin III fragment and Apo A-I, or any combination thereof.

- A kit according to Claim 32, in which the probe contains an adsorbent for adsorption of the polypeptide.
- A kit according to Claim 33, further comprising a washing solution for removal of unbound or weakly bound materials from the probe.